

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 09221 171330Z
ACTION EA-12

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TO USDA FAS WASHDC
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FM AG OFFICER
REPORT NO HK-8032; CODE 13AL

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR
SUBJECT: PRC: SUMMER GRAIN HARVEST

1. THE OUTPUT OF SUMMER HARVESTED GRAINS IN CHINA REPORTEDLY INCREASED BY 5.0 MILLION METIRC TON (MMT) THIS YEAR (NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY, ENGLISH 7/15/78). AS REPORTED PREVIOUSLY, THE OUTPUT OF SPRING SILK COCOONS AND SPRING TEA INCREASED AND A RECORG CROP OF RAPESEED WAS HARVESTED. &

2. THE AREA AFFECTED BY DROUGHT WAS ABOUT THE SAME AS LAST YEAR, BUT THE DROUGHT WAS MORE PROLONGED THIS YEAR. ACCORDING TO NCNA, THE DROUGHT BEGAN IN MARCH, WORSENER IN APRI), AND CONTINUED THROUGHOUT MAY AND INTO JUNE IN SOME AREAS. THE DROUGHT WAS MOST SEVERE IN THE YELLOW AND HUAI RIVER BASINS.

3. THE STATE COUNCIL CALLED AN EMERGENCY MEETING AT THE END OF APRIL TO MOBILIZE THE PEOPLE TO COMBAT THE DROUGHT AND PROVIDED UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 HONG K 09221 171330Z

THEM WITH BOTH FUNDS AND EQUIPMENT. OVER ONE MILLION CADRES IN HOPEH, HONAN, SHANTUNG, AND SEVEN OTHER PROVINCES WENT TO THE GRASS-ROOT LEVEL TO HELP THE MASSES COMBAT DROUGHT. WEN HUI PAO REPORTED THAT THE DROUGHT DAMAGE WAS GREATER THAN LAST YEAR IN SOME AREAS.

4. COMMENT: THE NCNA REPORT IMPLIED THAT THE WINTER WHEAT DID NOT

FARE AS WELL AS LAST YEAR IN SOME OF THE MAJOR PRODUCING REGIONS IN NORTH CHINA. THE INCREASE IN MANPOWER AND OTHER INPUTS TOGETHER WITH A LARGER ACREAGE OF EARLY SPRING SOWN (SUMMER HARVESTED) CROPS THIS YEAR PUSHED THE TOTAL OUTTURN OF SUMMER HARVESTED GRAINS ABOVE THE VERY POOR HARVEST OF LAST YEAR. THE CLAIMED INCREASE WAS MORE THE RESULT OF A HIGHER OUTTURN OF MISCELLANEOUS WINTER GRAINS AND SPRING POTATOES THAN AN IMPROVED HARVEST OF WINTER WHEAT. WE TENTATIVELY ESTIMATE THE OUTTURN OF SUMMER HARVESTED GRAINS AS FOLLOWS (IN MMT):

	1976	1977	1978
WINTER WHEAT		44.0	37.0 39.0
OTHER SUMMER GRAINS		14.0	10.0 13.0
TOTAL	58.0	47.0	52.0

& THE TWO LEADING HONG KONG COMMUNIST PAPERS -- THE TA KUNG PAO AND WEN HUI PAO -- CARRIED CHINESE TRANSLATIONS OF THE NCNA ENGLISH RELEASE ON JUL 16. APPARENTLY BECAUSE OF DIFFERENCES IN EDITING, THE TWO VERSIONS CONTAINED SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT INFORMATION. THIS REPORT IS BASED ON THE TA KUNG PAO TRANSLATION UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE.
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